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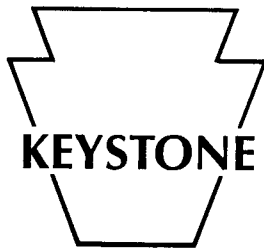
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Ag Digest

Note to Survey Respondents: Results of many surveys we conduct throughout the year are included in this report! Most survey results are not published individually. **Thank you** for taking the time to complete our surveys!

Released: Late October 2005

Bi-Monthly

Vol. 05 No. 20

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The Keystone Ag Digest may be found on the Internet at the following address: www.nass.usda.gov/pa/agdigest.htm

SEPTEMBER MILK PRODUCTION

Milk production in Pennsylvania during September 2005 totaled 842 million pounds, 5.9 percent above last September's production of 795 million pounds. The number of milk cows in the state during the month averaged 561,000 head, down 1,000 head from both August 2005 and September 2004. Production per cow averaged 1,500 pounds, down 75 pounds from August 2005, but 85 pounds above the September 2004 average.

Milk production in the 23 major States during September totaled 13.0 billion pounds, up 4.9 percent from September 2004. August revised production, at 13.6 billion pounds, was up 4.8 percent from August 2004. The August revision represented an increase of 22 million pounds from last month's preliminary production estimate. Production per cow in the 23 major States averaged 1,597 pounds for September, 64 pounds above September 2004. The number of milk cows on farms in the 23 major States was 8.16 million head, 54,000 head more than September 2004, and 1,000 head more than August 2005.

DAIRY PRODUCTS

United States' butter production was 91.4 million pounds in August, 1.2 percent above August 2004 but 4.1 percent below July 2005. Total cheese output (excluding cottage cheese) was 748 million pounds, 4.0 percent above August 2004 and 1.4 percent above July 2005. American type cheese production totaled 309 million pounds, 2.7 percent above August 2004 but 2.7 percent below July 2005. Frozen desserts (comparisons with August 2004): ice cream, regular (hard) -- 89.4 million gallons, up 21.3 percent; ice cream, lowfat (total) -- 40.3 million gallons, up 2.4 percent; ice cream, nonfat (hard) -- 1.83 million gallons, up 7.1 percent; sherbet (hard) -- 5.68 million gallons, up 21.0 percent; frozen yogurt (total) -- 5.95 million gallons, down 3.0 percent.

PRODUCTION OF SELECTED DAIRY PRODUCTS

Products	Aug 2004	Jul 2005	Aug 2005
000 Lbs.			
PENNSYLVANIA			
Butter	2,936	5,226	3,241
Ice Cream	4,795	4,136	4,749
UNITED STATES			
Butter	90,329	95,310	91,434
Cheese:			
American Types	300,384	317,037	308,622
Swiss	23,155	24,896	24,807
Brick and Muenster	6,556	6,150	6,502
Cream and Neufchatel	59,231	54,338	61,076
Mozzarella	232,497	242,877	244,613
Other Italian	64,015	58,094	67,043
Total Italian Types	296,512	300,971	311,656
All Other	21,939	21,374	21,642
Total	719,538	737,713	748,042
NF Dry Milk, Human	113,617	110,667	87,569
Yogurt, Plain & Flavored	230,018	227,077	249,507
000 Gal.			
FROZEN PRODUCTS:			
Ice Cream, Hard	73,697	87,648	89,421
Ice Cream, Lowfat	39,329	39,414	40,266
Ice Cream, Nonfat	1,708	1,966	1,829
Sherbet, Hard	4,690	5,408	5,675
Frozen Yogurt, Total	6,137	5,600	5,952
MIX FOR PRODUCTS:			
Ice Cream Mix	42,376	49,360	48,298
Ice Cream Mix, Lowfat	21,632	21,851	22,314
Ice Cream Mix, Nonfat	1,210	1,431	1,364
Sherbet Mix	3,352	3,980	3,859
Yogurt Mix	3,611	3,294	3,501

MILK COWS & MILK PRODUCTION

Item	Unit	Pennsylvania			23 States		
		Sep 2004	Aug 2005	Sep 2005	Sep 2004	Aug 2005	Sep 2005
Milk Cows	Thous.	562	562	561	8,104	8,157	8,158
Milk Per Cow	Lbs.	1,415	1,575	1,500	1,533	1,667	1,597
Milk Production	Mil. Lbs.	795	885	842	12,426	13,595	13,032

CROP PROSPECTS - OCTOBER 1, 2005 WITH COMPARISONS

Crop	Year	Pennsylvania				United States				Unit
		Acreage (000)		Production		Acreage (000)		Production		
		Planted	Harvested	Per Acre	(000)	Planted	Harvested	Per Acre	(000)	
Corn	2004	1,400	980 ¹	140.0	137,200	80,930	73,632 ¹	160.4	11,807,217	Bu.
	2005	1,350	880 ¹	123.0	108,240	81,642	74,333 ¹	146.1	10,857,440	Bu.
Wheat, Winter	2004	140	135	49.0	6,615	43,350	34,462	43.5	1,499,434	Bu.
	2005	150	145	54.0	7,830	40,320	33,680	44.4	1,493,769	Bu.
Oats	2004	130	110	55.0	6,050	4,085	1,787	64.7	115,695	Bu.
	2005	140	110	55.0	6,050	4,240	1,823	63.1	115,002	Bu.
Barley	2004	65	55	62.0	3,410	4,527	4,021	69.6	279,743	Bu.
	2005	55	47	72.0	3,384	3,922	3,276	64.8	212,196	Bu.
Soybeans	2004	430	425	46.0	19,550	75,208	73,958	42.2	3,123,686	Bu.
	2005	440	430	41.0	17,630	72,200	71,270	41.6	2,967,075	Bu.
Hay, Dry Alfalfa	2004	-	540	2.80	1,512	-	21,707	3.47	75,383	Ton
	2005	-	500	2.40	1,200	-	22,118	3.43	75,940	Ton
Hay, Dry Other	2004	-	1,160	2.40	2,784	-	40,209	2.05	82,391	Ton
	2005	-	1,160	2.10	2,436	-	39,605	1.94	76,931	Ton
Tobacco, All	2004	-	4.0	2,025	8,100	-	408.0	2,155	879,227	Lbs.
	2005	-	5.0	2,140	10,700	-	307.0	2,083	639,566	Lbs.
Potatoes, Fall	2004	12.0	11.0	240	2,640	1,039.7	1,022.3	401	410,253	Cwt.
	2005	11.5	11.0	²	²	970.4	955.7	²	²	Cwt.

¹ Harvested for grain, remainder of planted acres for silage and other uses. ² Not available until November, 2005.

OCTOBER 1, 2005 CROP FORECAST

Based on conditions as of October 1, 2005, Pennsylvania's apple production is expected to be above last year. Production of corn for grain, soybeans, dry alfalfa hay, other dry hay, Maryland-type and Pennsylvania seedleaf tobaccos, and grapes are expected to be below a year ago.

Corn for grain production is forecast at 108.2 million bushels, 21 percent below last year's crop. Acreage for grain harvest is expected to total 880,000 with an average yield of 123 bushels per acre, compared with 980,000 acres and 140 bushels per acre last year. Soybean production is expected to be 17.6 million bushels, down 10 percent from last year's production of 19.6 million bushels. Harvested area is expected to be 430,000 acres and yield is estimated at 41 bushels per acre, down 1 bushel per acre from the September forecast, and down 5 bushels per acre from 2004.

Alfalfa dry hay production is forecast at 1.2 million tons, 21 percent below a year ago. Pennsylvania farmers expect to harvest 500,000 acres of alfalfa for dry hay, with an average yield of 2.40 tons per acre, down 0.4 ton per acre from the 2004 average yield. Other dry hay production is forecast at 2.4 million tons, 12 percent below a year ago. Pennsylvania farmers expect to harvest 1.16 million acres, with an average yield of 2.10 tons per acre, compared to the 2004 average yield of 2.40 tons per acre.

Pennsylvania's production of Maryland-type tobacco production is estimated at 3.0 million pounds, down 24 percent from last year. Acreage for harvest is set at 1500 acres with an average yield of 2,000 pounds per acre. Pennsylvania's seedleaf-type tobacco production is estimated at 2.86 million pounds, 31 percent less than 2004's crop. Acreage for harvest is set at 1,300 acres with an average yield of 2,200 pounds per acre. Production of light air-cured burley tobacco is estimated at 4.84 million pounds. Acreage for harvest is set at 2,200 acres with an average yield of 2,200 pounds per acre.

At the United States level, corn for grain production as of October 1, 2005, is forecast at 10.9 billion bushels, up 2 percent from last month, but 8 percent below 2004. If realized, this would be the second largest crop on record. Based on conditions as of October 1, yields are expected to average 146.1 bushels per acre, up 2.9 bushels per acre from September, but 14.3 bushels below last year. Forecast yields are either unchanged or higher than last month in all forecasting states except Alabama and

Mississippi. As harvest progresses, producers are finding that the warm, dry conditions during July and August did not reduce yields as much as originally expected. Based on administrative information, acreage updates were made in several states and farmers now expect to harvest 74.3 million acres of corn for grain, up 15,000 acres from September and up 1 percent from 2004.

U.S. soybean production is forecast at 2.97 billion bushels, up 4 percent from the September forecast, but 5 percent below 2004. Based on conditions as of October 1, yield is expected to average 41.6 bushels per acre, up 2.0 bushels from September, but 0.6 bushel per acre below last year's record high yield. Below normal temperatures and adequate moisture during August and early September across most of the Corn Belt, Great Plains, and Delta were beneficial to the crop during the final stages of development. Area planted is now estimated at 72.2 million acres, down 903,000 from the August estimate. Area for harvest is forecast at 71.3 million acres, down 914,000 acres from September. Revised 2004 soybean acres, yield, and production were published in the September 30, 2005 Grain Stocks report.

Nationally, dry hay production of alfalfa and alfalfa mixtures, is forecast at 75.9 million tons, up 3 percent from the August forecast and up 1 percent from last year. Yields are expected to average 3.43 tons per acre, up 0.09 ton from August, but down 0.04 ton from 2004. Harvested area is 22.1 million acres, unchanged from August, but up 2 percent from last year. Other hay production is forecast at 76.9 million tons, up 1 percent from August, but down 7 percent from 2004. Based on October 1 conditions, yields are expected to average 1.94 tons, up 0.02 ton from August, but down 0.11 ton from last year. Harvested acreage is estimated at 39.6 million, unchanged from the August estimate, but down 2 percent from 2004.

U.S. tobacco production is forecast at 640 million pounds, down 1 percent from the September 1 forecast and 27 percent below 2004. Area for harvest is forecast at 307,010 acres, unchanged from September, but down 25 percent from last year. If realized, this would be the smallest production since 1889 and the smallest acreage on record. Yields for 2005 are expected to average 2,083 pounds per acre, 16 pounds below last month's forecast, and down 72 pounds from 2004.

Pennsylvania: All Forage - Acreage, Yield, Production and Value, 2003-2004 ¹

County & District	2003				2004			
	Harvested	Yield	Production	Value of Production	Harvested	Yield	Production	Value of Production
	<i>Acres</i>	<i>Tons</i>	<i>Tons</i>	<i>Dollars</i>	<i>Acres</i>	<i>Tons</i>	<i>Tons</i>	<i>Dollars</i>
Adams	40.200	3.0	119.900	15,642.200	40.200	3.0	121.500	13,863.740
Allegheny	8.000	2.6	20.700	2,803.500	7.700	2.4	18.600	2,182.920
Armstrong	40.800	2.3	95.200	12,483.000	41.000	3.0	124.500	15,042.800
Beaver	17.300	2.5	43.600	5,462.000	19.000	2.5	47.400	5,505.660
Bedford	51.200	2.7	139.600	16,575.800	56.000	2.9	164.000	18,251.120
Berks	49.700	3.3	162.400	18,686.400	52.000	3.4	175.000	20,125.680
Blair	26.900	3.3	88.700	9,682.400	25.600	3.4	85.900	9,125.060
Bradford	109.100	2.4	265.700	32,011.200	110.000	2.7	296.200	31,658.900
Bucks	15.800	2.7	42.200	5,399.800	15.000	2.9	44.000	4,932.760
Butler	40.700	2.7	108.000	13,974.500	43.200	2.6	111.400	13,810.060
Cambria	21.900	2.6	56.800	7,260.300	20.000	2.8	55.400	6,430.000
Cameron	700	2.1	1,500	202.600	700	2.0	1,400	160.560
Carbon	4.500	2.4	11.000	1,491.200	4.900	2.7	13.000	1,537.920
Centre	37.000	2.7	99.800	12,407.600	36.000	2.9	103.100	12,015.760
Chester	42.900	3.1	134.800	16,836.900	44.000	3.1	138.000	15,896.980
Clarion	32.000	2.6	83.000	10,600.000	34.500	3.2	110.400	13,177.600
Clearfield	19.000	2.0	37.200	4,743.600	21.500	2.9	63.200	7,342.760
Clinton	12.500	2.7	34.000	3,994.900	12.100	3.1	37.300	4,182.340
Columbia	17.500	2.4	41.700	5,221.200	16.000	2.8	44.700	5,056.860
Crawford	56.600	2.8	161.300	19,592.600	55.300	2.5	140.200	15,345.260
Cumberland	35.600	2.9	103.600	12,258.600	40.000	3.5	141.000	16,350.120
Dauphin	22.000	2.9	64.600	8,213.000	21.500	3.1	66.300	7,650.360
Delaware	400	2.5	1,000	137.000	600	2.8	1,700	162.640
Elk	7.000	2.3	16.400	2,114.300	6.300	2.4	15.200	1,716.820
Erie	32.800	2.8	90.800	11,132.100	30.800	2.3	70.000	7,616.740
Fayette	36.600	2.2	79.800	10,366.700	38.500	2.6	100.000	12,591.180
Forest	1.500	1.8	2.700	369.900	1.800	1.9	3.500	441.000
Franklin	67.400	3.2	215.000	23,455.300	74.000	3.5	261.000	28,337.100
Fulton	27.300	2.6	70.800	8,744.900	26.000	2.8	71.500	8,057.000
Greene	38.000	2.1	80.200	10,767.000	38.000	2.1	80.000	7,467.060
Huntingdon	33.000	3.0	100.000	11,137.600	31.000	3.2	100.200	10,683.420
Indiana	34.300	2.6	90.500	11,350.200	35.800	2.5	90.300	10,563.260
Jefferson	28.600	2.4	68.200	8,702.600	28.500	2.5	71.900	8,836.800
Juniata	19.400	3.0	57.700	6,895.500	19.000	3.4	64.800	7,059.800
Lackawanna	12.600	2.5	31.700	4,087.300	13.500	2.3	31.700	3,434.960
Lancaster	92.300	3.8	354.200	41,274.400	95.700	3.4	324.700	37,698.880
Lawrence	20.300	2.9	58.000	7,136.000	20.000	3.9	77.200	9,580.060
Lebanon	24.000	3.6	87.500	9,065.900	26.000	3.4	88.000	9,368.880
Lehigh	12.000	2.8	33.400	4,326.700	14.000	3.0	42.000	5,188.560
Luzerne	13.000	2.3	29.800	3,878.900	12.600	2.2	28.300	3,395.260
Lycoming	36.000	2.6	95.000	11,940.800	34.800	2.6	90.500	10,621.600
McKean	10.500	2.5	26.200	3,440.400	11.300	2.3	26.100	3,055.260
Mercer	37.800	3.1	117.700	14,985.900	41.000	3.2	132.000	15,167.500
Mifflin	22.500	3.2	72.600	8,438.600	22.700	3.6	81.400	9,516.660
Monroe	5.300	1.9	9.900	1,356.300	5.400	2.2	12.100	1,407.640
Montgomery	11.100	2.5	27.900	3,618.600	11.100	2.4	27.100	2,991.580
Montour	6.600	3.0	19.500	2,325.200	6.000	2.8	16.600	1,782.100
Northampton	11.900	2.9	34.500	4,571.000	12.200	3.0	37.100	4,641.860
Northumberland	14.500	3.0	43.600	4,999.100	15.300	3.2	49.100	5,477.160
Perry	35.000	2.5	88.600	10,349.000	34.000	2.9	97.400	10,434.500
Pike	1.200	2.8	3.400	433.400	1.400	2.9	4.100	460.320
Potter	22.200	2.6	57.500	6,738.500	21.800	2.7	59.300	6,405.700
Schuylkill	17.700	2.7	48.000	6,019.400	18.200	2.7	48.900	5,542.460
Snodgrass	21.700	2.9	62.500	7,523.600	23.000	3.3	74.800	8,651.860
Somerset	57.900	2.7	156.800	18,488.700	68.000	2.7	181.000	20,299.180
Sullivan	10.100	2.4	23.900	2,966.900	10.100	2.9	29.300	3,299.140
Susquehanna	60.000	2.3	136.500	16,927.900	64.000	2.4	151.100	16,458.200
Tioga	74.800	2.5	185.300	23,376.700	76.800	2.4	185.100	20,120.520
Union	18.000	3.2	58.200	6,339.800	17.000	3.3	56.400	6,195.880
Venango	14.500	2.6	37.800	4,797.000	15.100	2.2	32.600	3,814.300
Warren	20.300	3.0	61.200	7,310.200	22.000	2.7	59.000	6,441.320
Washington	79.600	2.3	181.600	24,352.200	77.000	2.1	165.000	19,779.720
Wayne	38.900	2.3	87.800	10,860.800	39.000	2.6	103.100	11,107.500
Westmoreland	40.600	2.5	102.900	13,097.300	43.000	2.6	110.000	14,071.440
Wyoming	19.000	2.3	43.500	5,480.000	21.500	2.3	50.400	5,704.000
York	39.900	2.9	116.600	14,848.200	40.000	3.0	120.000	13,568.760
Northwestern	163.500	2.9	471.500	58,187.700	166.000	2.6	437.300	48,826.120
North Central	282.900	2.5	705.500	86,786.300	283.900	2.6	740.400	81,220.840
Northeastern	130.500	2.3	299.500	37,356.000	138.000	2.4	336.300	36,704.660
West Central	214.000	2.6	546.500	69,708.300	222.000	2.9	633.100	76,516.240
Central	315.000	2.8	891.500	105,536.500	308.600	3.1	959.300	107,422.180
East Central	65.600	2.6	170.000	22,076.900	68.700	2.7	185.500	22,174.020
Southwestern	260.700	2.4	622.000	79,875.400	272.200	2.4	654.600	76,391.500
South Central	261.600	2.9	765.500	91,525.000	276.200	3.2	879.000	98,427.840
Southeastern	236.200	3.4	810.000	95,019.000	244.400	3.3	798.500	91,177.400
Pennsylvania	1,930,000	2.7	5,282,000	646,071,000	1,980,000	2.8	5,624,000	638,860,800

¹ Counties not shown separately included in 'Other Counties' for that specific district.

FRUIT FORECAST

Pennsylvania's apple and grape producers anticipate harvesting a very good crop of fruit in 2005. Disease pressure has generally been lower in 2005 than in previous years due to the dry summer. Growers reported higher levels of insect populations and more generations of those insects because of the warm weather. The following forecasts are based on conditions as of October 1.

Apples: Pennsylvania's production is forecast at 420 million pounds, up 3.7 percent from last year's crop, but down 5 percent from 2003. The October 1 forecast represents a 10 million pound (2.3 percent) decrease from the August 1 estimate of 430 million pounds. According to apple producers, Pennsylvania apples are looking good. Apples are slightly smaller than anticipated due to the drier than normal summer. Pick out has been good, though not as good as originally anticipated on the August 1 forecast. As of Oct 1, growers had harvested more than 50% of their crop. The final U.S. forecast of the 2005 season is 9.379 billion pounds, down 10 percent from last year, but 6.7 percent above the 2003 crop.

Grapes: Pennsylvania's production forecast is 85,000 tons, down 2 percent from last year and unchanged from 2003. Growers report an excellent crop in vineyards with no major disease or insect issues as of October 1. The dry summer has been perfect for grape growth and development. Both juice and wine grape growers report a very clean, quality crop of grapes. As of October 1, harvest was about 33% complete.

U.S. grape production is forecast at 7.07 million tons, up 13 percent from 2004 and 6 percent above 2003.

OCTOBER 1, 2005 FRUIT FORECASTS WITH COMPARISONS

Crop	Year	Production	
		Pennsylvania	United States
Million Pounds			
Apples.....	2003	442.0	8,793.1
	2004	405.0	10,419.9
	2005	420.0	9,379.1
Tons			
Grapes	2003	85,000	6,643,530
	2004	86,800	6,231,700
	2005	85,000	7,070,900

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